

PAPERS READ

BEFORE THE

LANCASTER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

FRIDAY, JUNE 3, 1910.

"History herself, as seen in her own workshop."

MINUTES OF THE JUNE MEETING.

ANNUAL OUTING OF THE SOCIETY.

THE COUNTY BI-CENTENARY.

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Minutes of the June Meeting -	-	-	-	-	-	167
Annual Outing of the Society -	-	-	-	-	-	168
The County Bi-Centenary -	-	-	-	-	-	172



MINUTES OF JUNE MEETING

Lancaster, Pa., June 3, 1910.

The Lancaster County Historical Society held its regular monthly meeting in its quarters, in the Smith Free Library building, this evening. President Steinman presided, and there was a fair attendance of the membership.

The minutes of the May meeting were read and approved.

Librarian Steigerwalt reported the usual exchanges received since the last meeting.

The following new members, nominated at the May meeting, were duly elected: Prof. C. N. Heller, Lancaster; Miss Elizabeth Ellmaker, Lancaster; Jacob B. Misemer, Lancaster; D. W. Noll, Lancaster; Samuel L. Hartman, Lancaster, and Mrs. Irving A. Heikes, of New York City.

The names of Clarence M. Burton, of Detroit, and J. Aldus Herr, of Lampeter, were placed in nomination for membership, action on them being postponed until the next meeting.

The outing committee, through Mr. A. K. Hostetter, reported that the annual pilgrimage of the society would be taken June 17, the objective points being Reamstown, Muddy Creek and Adamstown, the members to travel by special trolley car.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

ANNUAL OUTING OF SOCIETY

The Lancaster County Historical Society held its annual outing on Friday, June 17, taking in Reamstown, Muddy Creek and Adamstown on the pilgrimage. Fifty members of the society were in the party, and they had a special trolley car leaving Lancaster at 1 o'clock p. m., and returning at 10 o'clock. Members of the Berks County Historical Society joined them.

The first stop made was at the old Reddig house, near Reamstown, built by one of the original Reams in 1767. Here Mr. Pierce Lesher met the party and gave the historical points about the property. The entrance to the cellar is a door about six feet wide, and in this cellar the patriots, during the Revolutionary War, hid a large number of their horses to prevent the Tories taking them or giving information about them, so that the British authorities could take them. Closely adjoining this is the old Reams Cemetery, and the visitors went into it and examined the ancient tombstones and the names of the forefathers of that locality.

The next step was on the Pierce Lesher farm on the southern outskirts of Reamstown, which is the center of the original tract of several hundred acres taken up by Eberhard Ream in 1724. In later years this tract contained a famous race-track, and was the field of the battalion meetings, and the great circuses on their route from Philadelphia to Harrisburg and other points. Prom-

inent speakers addressed the audience on battalion day.

The next stop was in Reamstown, and the whole party went to the Union Reformed and Lutheran Church, and here inspected the old tombstones and learned from Mr. Lesher the history of the twenty-five or more Revolutionary patriots killed and wounded at the battle of Brandywine. Their names are not given on the marker. Most of them died here. There was an old hotel, called "The Continental House," in Reamstown at that time, and back of it a barracks, where the soldiers were nursed, of whom these twenty-five or more died. At this place B. C. Atlee, Esq., addressed the audience on home county heroism, and brought out the point that, whereas we have been accustomed to consider these non-resistant forefathers as having always been behind the times, it now turns out that they were one hundred years ahead of the times, since the doctrine of peace which they stood for more than one hundred years is now being approved and sought for by all the great nations. Mr. Darwin W. Noll, proprietor of the new Orange street book store, and Rev. Gardiner also spoke here. The party then went into the church, and Mr. Walter Bausman, of New York, played on the old organ. "Vinnie Ream," the sculptress, who made the statue of Lincoln in Washington, is the granddaughter of John Frederick Ream, formerly of Reamstown.

The next stop was at Muddy Creek, where the ancient Union Lutheran and Reformed Church was visited, and where the visitors were welcomed by Rev. Stephen Schweitzer in an interesting speech in the old church. This church is very ancient, built of thick

stone wall's, with a high pulpit and side gallery all around it, reached by a diagonal stairway from each of the two rear corners. Mr. Bausman also played on this organ, which was built in 1781, and has an especially sweet, rich tone. Ancient documents, Bibles and records were shown here. Rev. Brown made the response to Rev. Schweitzer's speech at this place.

From here the party went to Adamstown and were received by Mr. Elmer Billingfelt, and given refreshments at his fine old country home, where they also viewed the many Indian relics and other rare and ancient exhibits and documents.

The party next moved to the cemetery on the heights, where, recently, a new \$10,000 chapel was built to the memory of John and Elizabeth Musser by Peter Miller Musser and Ludwig Talbot Custer, descendants. It is a beautiful gray cut stone building, trimmed with Indiana limestone. Here addresses were made by Rev. C. H. Mengle and S. R. Weaver, Esq., Mr. Weaver dwelling upon the great wrong done to the German element of Lancaster county by recent books, recklessly holding them up to ridicule, and announcing the fact that several members of the Historical Society are collecting data to issue a complete answer to and refutation of the inuendoes of these books. The purpose of this is to set forth the sturdy elements of our people in their real true light.

From here the party went to the American Eagle Hotel and took dinner, after which they again repaired to Mr. Billingfelt's home and listened to a speech by Mr. B. F. Owen, of Reading, on ancient stoves and stove plates, samples of the latter of which he exhibited. It was a very interesting and able talk.

The historians then boarded their special car, leaving Adamstown at 8:30 o'clock, and arrived home at 10 o'clock, having had a very profitable and pleasurable pilgrimage and outing and having inspired new zeal into the members to bring forth the history of this ancient part of the county in their proceedings in the future and especially to take some action with regard to the unnamed Revolutionary soldiers in the Reamstown Cemetery.

THE COUNTY BI-CENTENARY

The Committee appointed by the Lancaster County Historical Society to prepare for the celebration of the 200th anniversary of the first settlement of Lancaster county effected an organization the latter part of April. The chairman, F. R. Diffenderffer, presided. On motion duly put, seconded and passed, H. Frank Eshleman, Esq., was elected secretary and A. K. Hostetter treasurer.

It was the sense of the committee that the celebration be held in the early part of September, in the neighborhood of the Old Christian Herr House or somewhere upon or near the original 6,400 acre tract taken up by the pioneers of this county, and that the event be held near the trolley line.

The following sub-committees were then selected:

Committee on securing grounds or a place for holding the celebration—Mr. L. B. Herr, chairman; Miss Alice Nevin and H. L. Raub.

Finance and Funds—Messrs. Geo. Steinman, A. K. Hostetter, William Riddle and W. U. Hensel.

On Invitations—Hon. W. U. Hensel, Martha B. Clark, John A. Coyle and B. C. Atlee, Esqrs.

On Programme—Mr. F. R. Diffenderffer, D. F. Magee, Esq., A. F. Hostetter, Esq., Judge C. I. Landis and Mrs. M. N. Robinson.

Executive Committee—Mr. F. R. Diffenderffer, H. Frank Eshleman, Esq., and Mr. A. K. Hostetter.

Reception Committee, consisting of entire main committee, who are: Mr. F. R. Diffenderffer, chairman; Hon. W. U. Hensel, Hon. C. I. Landis, D. F. Magee, Esq., Mr. William Riddle, Mrs. Mary N. Robinson, Mr. A. K. Hostetter, John A. Coyle, Esq., H. Frank Eshleman, Esq., Mr. L. B. Herr, A. F. Hostetter, Esq., B. C. Atlee, Esq., Miss Alice Nevin, Mr. H. L. Raub, Mrs. A. K. Hostetter, Miss Martha B. Clark and Mr. George Steinman, President of the Society, ex-officio; together with a local committee.

The following were appointed members of the local committee, designed to be a committee to interest citizens of the locality and also to have the function of being a representative committee, to communicate and arouse interest among the people in all sections of the county, including all creeds and representatives of all nationalities living in our county:

Messrs. J. Aldus Herr, Hebron Herr, Hon. Amos Mylin, Messrs. C. R. Herr, Joseph P. Brenneman, Frank Musselman, George W. Hensel, Strasburg; J. Bachman, Jefferson Herr, Dr. J. H. Musser, Rev. Frank Herr, Hon. John Homsher, Major and Mrs. J. W. Yocum, Hon. Washington Hershey, Hon. John H. Landis, Messrs. John D. Herr, H. W. Kriebel, Samuel Mylin, Esq., Messrs. John B. Kendig, Harry Rush, David Huber, Jr., Mrs. A. K. Hostetter, Messrs. Linnaeus R. Reist and Isaac Weaver.

The committee was to be considerably enlarged at subsequent meetings, so as to take in descendants of all the main families of Lancaster county, whether Swiss, German, Irish, Huguenot, Scotch or English; and all creeds, Christian, Jewish and of any other religious learning.

It was decided that all members of the main and sub-committees should make a list of all the prominent people of whom they have any knowledge in the United States, who came from Lancaster county, or whose ancestors came from Lancaster county; and that there should be sent to all such persons a circular explaining the purposes and character of this bi-centenary celebration, together with an invitation to be present, and that the lists of such persons should be sent to the Secretary.

At the committee meeting on May 13, the local committee was augmented by the addition of the following: Maris B. Weaver, Clayton Mylin, Edward Stauffer, Paul Heine, C. A. Borrows, Rev. Emil Meister, Ephraim Hershey, Alfred Schneebeli, J. W. Brenneman, James Shand, John E. Snyder, Harry H. Herr, Aldus C. Herr, Emil Mylin, D. H. Landis, Hon. D. W. Graybill, A. N. Hess, Dr. J. L. Mentzer, Howard A. Johns, Abram Kendig, Jacob B. Miller, Silas S. Herr, Robert Oswald, Martin Overholtzer, Jacob Bowman, H. S. Williamson, Dr. R. L. Clark, John F. Weaver, David H. Mellinger, Amos Miller, Quarryville; Joseph Miller, Marticville; Ezra H. Burkholder, A. W. Snader, H. M. Stauffer, Leola, and A. B. Denlinger, of Strasburg.

At the committee meeting of June 25, the general character of the programme was decided upon, as follows: A forenoon session at half-past ten o'clock, at which there is to be unveiled a boulder and tablet marker of the original tract settled, together with a short talk on the meaning of our 200 years of county history; an afternoon session, musical and literary; speeches to be made by notable

strangers; and an evening session in Lancaster city. The day exercises to be held September 8, near Willow Street, on the original tract, preferably on the lawn of the Brick (Mennonite) Church. At this meeting it was also decided to hold a meeting on the ground to meet the local people and members and authorities of the church on July 16th, which was postponed to July 23d.

J. Aldus Herr and H. Frank Eshleman, together with such persons as they see fit to associate, were appointed a committee to procure the boulder and marker, which they did at once. Committees on meals and horse feed and on reception were also appointed, and the programme committee presented the outlines of the programme with some of the details worked out. And with this all the preliminaries for the holding of a successful observance of the 200th anniversary of the first settlement of this county were completed.

